

A N  
A B S T R A C T  
O F T H E  
*Church Catechism;*  
Briefly Containing  
The S U B S T A N C E of all that is  
N e c e s s a r y to S A L V A T I O N.

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*This is a faithful Saying, and these Things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good Works: These Things are good and profitable unto Men. But avoid foolish Questions. Tit. iii. 8, 9.*

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By the most Reverend  
Dr. EDWARD SYNGE,  
Late Lord Archbishop of Tuam, in Ireland.

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A New EDITION corrected.

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# ABSTRACT

OF THE

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT

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A HISTORY OF

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HISTORY FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS,

BY JAMES HARRIS,

WITH A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.



## THE

## P R E F A C E.

 *HE Necessary Information of a Christian in Matters of Religion, is all reducible to the following Heads.*

First, *What he ought to believe?*

Secondly, *What Duties he is bound to perform?*

Thirdly, *After what Manner he ought to address himself to God in Prayer?*

Fourthly, *By what Means and under what Conditions he is admitted into the Church of Christ?*

Fifthly, *How and by what Means he is to apply the Sufferings of Christ to himself, so as to partake of the Benefits of them?*

Whosoever is well instructed in these Five Points, and lives conformably to such Instruction, is undoubtedly in the direct and sure Way to eternal Salvation.

It were much to be wished that every Man, Woman and Child amongst us could distinctly repeat the Words of our excellent Church Catechism: But he who cannot do this, may yet understand them: And if he does that well and thoroughly, there is no part of the abovementioned Instruction, which will be wanting to him. For the Creed with the short Explication in the Catechism subjoined to it will teach him what he is to Believe. The Ten Commandments with the like Explication will instruct him in all Parts of his Duty: From the Lord's Prayer in like Manner explained he may learn how to Pray: And from the Doctrine there delivered, concerning Baptism and the Lord's-Supper, he may be well informed of the Terms upon which we come into Christ's Church; and in what Manner we become Partakers of the Benefits of that Sacrifice which he made of Himself upon the Cross for our Redemption. All these Things, I say, may sufficiently be known, in order to Salvation, by every one who well and thoroughly understands the Church Catechism, tho' possibly he may not be able to repeat the Words of it. I have by Experience found, that they who cannot read, and some of those who can, are very hardly to be brought to get by heart, or even to understand some Parts of the Catechism; particularly

particularly those where a single Answer is drawn out into some Length; as the second and fourth Commandments, the Explication both of the Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, and the Doctrine of the Sacraments.

For the Ease of their Memories, therefore, as well as Improvement of their Understanding, I have in the following Abstract endeavour'd to represent the true Sense of the Catechism, in the easiest and plainest Words I could think of, and have made the Answers therein as few and short also, as I could contrive them.

And since Religious Instruction consists not in the repeating a Form of Words, but altogether in the Knowledge of necessary Things; I think I may truly say, That who-soever well understands this Abstract, is in a good Measure instructed in the Church Catechism, and in all things that are necessary to Salvation. And whatever Form of Words is made use of in Catechising; it will always be necessary for the Catechist (when he instructs the Ignorant) a little to explain each Question and Answer, as also to prove the Contents of every Answer from the Holy Scriptures. Part of which Explication and Proof it will be, sometimes to recite the Words of each of the Ten Commandments, as he puts the Question upon them; and to shew that the short Explication here given of them is alto-

ther agreeable to their respective Design and Intention, which always reaches further than the Letter.

The main Substance of the Christian Religion is here contained in forty two short Answers, none of them difficult to be understood (at least with a little Explication) even by the meanest Capacity.

How easy then will it be for the most ignorant Man or even Child, who will but be attentive, by the Assistance of his Parish Minister, or any other prudent and well instructed Christian, in a few Days to learn all that God requires from him in order to his everlasting Happiness? And when such Persons arrive at more Understanding, it will be their Duty as they become capable, not only to learn the Church Catechism, but also to be well acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, and other Books of Piety and Religion.



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## ABSTRACT, &amp;c.

1. ~~QUESTION~~ *WHAT Benefit was it to you that you were baptiz'd?*



*Answer.* Great Benefit: For, by God's Blessing on his own Ordinance of Baptism,

I was thereby made a Member of the Church of Christ, a Child of God, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. *What must you do that you may not be deprived of these great Benefits and Advantages?*

*Ans.* I must renounce the Devil, and all Manner of Sin and Wickedness: I must believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith: And I must give Obedience to all God's Commandments through the whole course of my Life.

3. Rebearse the Articles of the Christian  
Faith ?

**I** Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker  
of Heaven and Earth : And in Jesus  
Christ his only Son our Lord, who was con-  
ceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Vir-  
gin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried, he descended  
into Hell ; the third Day he rose again from  
the dead, he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth  
on the right Hand of God the Father Almighty ;  
From thence he shall come to judge the Quick  
and the Dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost ;  
The holy Catholick Church ; The Communi-  
on of Saints ; The Forgiveness of Sins ; The Re-  
surrection of the Body, and the Life everlast-  
ing. Amen.

4. What dost thou hereby chiefly and prin-  
cipally learn to believe ?

*Ans.* I learn to believe in God the Fa-  
ther, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, in whose  
Name I was baptiz'd.

5. What do you believe of God the Father ?

*Ans.* That by his Almighty Power he  
made me and all the World.

6. What do you believe of God the Son ?

*Ans.* That he took our Nature upon  
him, died for the Sins of all Mankind,  
rose again, and ascended into Glory.

7. What

7. What do you believe of God the Holy Ghost ?

*Ans.* That by his Grace and Assistance all faithful Members of Christ's Church are enabled to lead holy Lives.

8. What do you believe of Christ's Church ?

*Ans.* That it is an universal Church, and not confined to any one Nation or People. That every true Member of this Church is holy. That they all ought to maintain Communion and Fellowship together in Christ Jesus. And that so doing they shall obtain Forgiveness of their Sins and everlasting Happiness in the Life to come.

9. How many Commandments has God given us ?

*Ans.* Chiefly Ten : Being the same which God himself spake unto the Children of Israel.

10. What does the First Commandment require from us ?

*Ans.* That we should love, fear and honour God above all things ; and give religious Worship to none but himself.

11. What does the Second Commandment require from us ?

*Ans.* That we should make no Picture or Image of God ; nor worship or bow down to any Picture or Image whatsoever.

12. What

12. *What does the Third Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should honour and reverence the Name of God; and never profane it, either by foolish Talking, vain or false Swearing, or Cursing.

13. *What does the Fourth Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should worship God, not only privately, but publickly also: And that one Day in Seven should more especially be set apart for his Worship and Service, which, amongst us Christians, is the *Lord's Day*.

14. *What does the Fifth Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should love, honour, and obey our Parents, and all our Superiors in Church and State.

15. *What does the Sixth Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should abstain from Murder, Hatred, Malice and Revenge, and be kindly affectioned one towards another.

16. *What does the Seventh Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should abstain from Adultery, Whoredom, and all manner of Lewdness in Thought, Word, and Deed: And that we should carefully keep our Bodies in Temperance, Sobriety and Chastity.

17. *What*

17. *What does the Eighth Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should neither steal, cheat, nor defraud; but honestly give to every Man, whatever is due to him.

18. *What does the Ninth Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should bear false Witness against no Man, but abstain from Evil Speaking, Lying and Slander; and be true and sincere in all that we say.

19. *What doth the Tenth Commandment require from us?*

*Ans.* That we should be content with that which is our own, and not covet what belongs to any other Man.

20. *Give me the main Substance of all God's Commandments, in short?*

*Ans.* To love God with all our Heart and Soul; and to love our Neighbour as we do our selves.

21. *Are you able of yourself to keep these Commandments?*

*Ans.* Not without God's Grace and Assistance, which I must continually pray for.

22. *Say the Lord's Prayer.*

**O**UR Father which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in

*In Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread,  
And forgive us our Trespasses, as we forgive  
them, that trespass against us. And lead us  
not into Temptation, But deliver us from Evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and  
the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

23. *Do you pray for yourself alone?*

*Ans. I pray for all Mankind together  
with myself.*

24. *What mean you when you say, Our  
Father which art in Heaven?*

*Ans. I give Glory to God, as being our  
Lord and Heavenly Father.*

25. *What mean you when you say, Hallow-  
ed be thy Name?*

*Ans. I pray that God's Holy Name may  
be sanctified and reverenced through the  
World.*

26. *What mean you when you say, Thy  
Kingdom come?*

*Ans. I pray that all Men may become  
obedient unto God, as their eternal King,  
and that we all may be partakers of his  
Heavenly Kingdom.*

27. *What mean you when you say, Thy  
Will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven?*

*Ans. I pray that we may all be obedient  
to God's Will here on Earth, as the holy  
Angels and blessed Spirits are in Heaven.*

28. *What mean you when you say Give us this Day our daily Bread.*

*Ans.* I pray that God would give us the Necessaries of Life, of which *Bread* is reckoned to be the chief.

29. *What mean you when you say Forgive us our Trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us?*

*Ans.* I pray that as we forgive all other Men who have wronged us; so God would forgive us our Sins, whereby we have offended him.

30. *What mean you when you say Lead us not into Temptation?*

*Ans.* I pray that God would preserve us from every Thing that may tempt or draw us into Sin.

31. *What mean you when you say Deliver us from Evil?*

*Ans.* I pray that God would deliver us from all Calamities and Afflictions of this World: But above all, from the Evil of Sin, and the consequent Evil of eternal Damnation.

32. *What mean you when you say Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever?*

*Ans.* I give Praise and Glory to God for the Greatness of his Power and Majesty.

33. *Why do you say Amen at the End both of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer?*

*Ans.* *Amen* signifies as much as *verily, truly, or so be it:* And I pronounce it at the End both of my *Creed* and my *Prayers*, to shew that my Heart agrees with my Mouth.

34. *How many Divine Ordinances are there, which are commonly called by the Name of Sacraments?*

*Ans.* Two only as generally necessary to Salvation; that is to say, *Baptism* and *The Supper of the Lord.*

35. *What is the outward and visible Part of Baptism?*

*Ans.* Water, wherein Christ has commanded every Man to be baptized, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

36. *What is the inward and invisible Part of it?*

*Ans.* God's Grace and Blessing attending his own Ordinance; whereby we are cleansed from the Pollution of Sin; admitted into the Favour of God, as his Children, and enabled to live in Obedience to him.

37. *What is required from Persons to be baptized?*

*Ans.* Faith and Repentance.

38. *Why then are Infants baptized, who are uncapable both of believing and repenting?*

*Ans.* They are bound to believe and repent as soon as they become capable: Of which their Parents and Sureties, who bring them to Baptism are obliged to take all due Care.

39. *Why was the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ordained?*

*Ans.* It was ordained for the continual Remembrance of the Sacrifice of the Death of Christ, and of the Benefits which we receive thereby.

40. *What is the outward and invisible Part of the Lord's Supper?*

*Ans.* Bread and Wine; both which Christ has commanded to be received.

41. *What is the inward and invisible Part of it?*

*Ans.* The Communion or Participation of the Body and Blood of Christ; which through Faith we spiritually receive in the Lord's Supper, and thereby are made partakers of the Benefits of his Death and Passion.

42. *What Preparation is required of those who come to The Lord's Supper?*

*Ansf.* True Repentance for all past Sins, with a stedfast Purpose of leading an Holy Life, for the Time to come: Faith in *Jesus Christ*, with a thankful Remembrance of his Death, and Charity towards all Mankind.

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## THE Ten COMMANDMENTS.

### I.

**T**HOU shalt have none other Gods but me.

### II.

*Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven Image, nor the Likeness of any Thing that is in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, or in the Water under the Earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them: For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the Fathers upon the Children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew Mercy unto Thousands, of them that love me, and keep my Commandments.*

### III.

## III.

*Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: For the Lord will not hold him guiltless, that taketh his Name in vain.*

## IV.

*Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day. Six Days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt do no Manner of Work, thou, and thy Son, and thy Daughter, thy Man-servant, and thy Maid-servant, thy Cattle and the Stranger, that is within thy Gates. For in six Days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh Day; Wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh Day and hallowed it.*

## V.

*Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy Days may be long in the Land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

## VI.

*Thou shalt do no Murder.*

## VII.

*Thou shalt not commit Adultery.*

## VIII.

*Thou shalt not steal.*

## IX.

*Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.*

## X.

*Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's House, thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's Wife, nor his Servant, nor his Maid, nor his Ox, nor his Ass, nor any Thing that is his.*

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